

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News Bulletin

December 1996

Editor - Harvey E. Rookus NL7DK

Vol. 25 No. 12

December 6th

Christmas Party - Atwood Center - APU 6 pm

Santa Claus and presents for the kids!!

Entertainment by - "Benita and Brian"

Door Prize - ICOM 2 meter Mobile Rig

Club will furnish Ham and Turkey!

Members please bring the following:

Novice - Vegetables

General - Salad

Techs - Hot Dish

Advanced - Bread, Appetizers

Extra - Dessert

Be sure to RSVP by calling Kris at 349-1908 before Dec. 1st

Officers for 1997

President Rob Wilson - AL7KK

Vice President Paul Spatzek - WL7BF

Activities Mgr. Peter Bailey - WL7BW

Secretary Susan Woods NL7NN

Treasurer

3 Year Brd Mbr Harvey Rookus - NL7DK

One Year Brd Mbrs

Bruce McCormick - WL7YR

John Murray -

Diane Hammer - NL7KN

John Wolfe - AA0NN

Pat Wilke - WL7JA

Fred Erickson - KL7VC

What's Up?

General Meeting First Friday of Month - Carr-Gottstein Bldg APU Campus 7 pm
Second Bldg on the left.

Board Meeting - Second Wednesday 7 pm - Carr-Gottstein Bldg APU

VEC Testing - 1st Wed 6:30 pm, Carr-Gottstein Bldg.; 2nd Saturday, 2 pm Hope
Cottage - 530 W. International Airport Rd. Enter Rear of Bldg.

3rd Wednesday, VFW Hall - Eagle River 7 pm

No appointment needed. Bring copies of previous testing. Bring Photo ID.

November 1996

On the matter of frequency coordination in Alaska.

Recently throughout the state there has been a increase in what my shop likes to call "innovative frequency managment". ie: people just pick a frequency out of the blue, and setup equipment on it. This can cause not only serious safety problems, but hurt/bad feelings among those that play by the rules, and those that apparently feel that convention, gentlemen's agreements and rules are for other people.

Several years ago the FCC (you know the agency that givith and can taketh away your operating authority) made the decision that ARRL recognized coordination groups & individuals would be the ones who decided who was coordinated for the use of repeater, remote base and linking frequencies. THERE IS ABSOLUTLY NO STATEMENT in the agreement that you had to belong to the ARRL to be coordinated, rather that ARRL recognized groups would be the FCC recognized "coordinators". Regardless of wether you believe in the ARRL, are a member, or go it alone, some type of "standard" has to be agreed upon, else absolute confusion will reign over all of our operating frequencies.

The FCC however in case's of conflict for a particular frequency will contact the ARRL, who will in turn contact the ARRL appointed frequency coordinator for the area, and report back, those stations that are NOT coordinated will be instructed by the FCC to CEASE AND DESIST. This means that if you continue operations, you and your station license, plus any other FCC issued license may be taken away from you. Willfull interference is just NOT tolerated by the FCC, nor should it be by any responsible amateur radio operator.

In Alaska Mel Bowns KL7GG has been the appointed ARRL coordinator for several years. This is a thankless job, trying to keep interference to a minimum, try to allow users to pick the frequency that their equipment will most easily tune to, and try to keep up to date records. Fortunatly in Alaska (so far at least) we're not overloaded in applications for a repeater, linking frequency, control or simplex remote base station pair.

Go down south and you will find a waiting list of several years long, everyone just waits in line, hoping that someone will die, or move out of the area (that's kinda like moving out of the area) and that they will be high enough on the list to get the pair. We should all be thankfull that we have not reached that saturation yet. And we should also be thankfull that someone has volinteered their time, and equipment to keep the coordination up to date, and keep the ARRL repeater book publishers updated.

For those of you that feel that Mel isn't doing the job you want done, well...we could request to have one of the repeater groups in the lower 49 tell us how to do it, and where. Can you imagine the fun of trying to convince someone in California, or New York that you need a certain pair or a certain control frequency? Can you imagine trying to explain to someone from the lower 49, that 200 miles is not an uncommon range for a high site repeater, and that another user on the same pair within that range will be a problem?

Continued from Page 2

All Mel requires is a courtesy call, requesting what frequency pair is available, follow his suggestions, and file hard copy paperwork BEFORE you start operations. This paperwork should be updated every year, not a hard thing to do, takes maybe five minutes if you print slow, to fill in the form and pass the information on back to the coordinator. Mel has also made it easier for the huge state we're in, by appointing associate coordinators in the Northern, and SE part of the state, as well as digital associate coordinators to attempt to keep a handle on where high profile Nodes, and BBS's are located, so that frequency congestion can be held at a minimum, and everyone can enjoy the use of their equipment.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if we all follow the agreements, we make it easier for all, and it just makes good sense to have one contact point for frequency coordination, once again you don't have to be a member of ARRL, you don't even have to believe in their mission, BUT PLEASE FOR THE SAKE OF ALL USERS, lets try to get some common ground on repeater and simplex base /remote base frequency usage.

Doug Dickinson KL7IKX
ARRL OOC
AARC Tech Support

Silent Keys

TIM PETTIS - KL7 WE

Tim became a Silent Key on November 2, 1996 from a massive heart attack. Tim was Life Member 20 of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. He worked for Stolt's Electric, RCA, then AT&T Alascom, where he was a communications supervisor for 24 years. His family said, "tomothy wrote articles on Ham radio antennas for international distribution. He was responsible for starting a new way of thinking about polarity rotation in 'moon bounce' activities. He also brought the First glider to Alaska and helped organize the Soaring Club. ...He was a philosopher, poet, physicist, 'punner' and protector." It is told that Tim could work on several calulations at the same time. His back yard at one time appeared to be a forest of aluminum trees. If you ever asked Tim a question you received a very detailed answer to you question even if it were of a minor nature. He could say 'no' in a very likeable manner.

When asked to be the program for a Club meeting, I understand that after about an hour and a half friendly talk, the answer was 'no'! Tim will be 'missed' by those who knew him and you have missed much if you didn't know Tim.

CLYDE N. McCURDY - KLOAS

Clyde became a Silent Key on November 9, 1996. As may be seen by the KLO callsign, Clyde had received one of the first new callsigns for Alaska. His previous callsign was KC6UJE.



■ Computers

Getting on the Net

Will McGhie VK6UU leaves his beloved repeaters for a moment and tells of the fun he had connecting to the Internet.*

You might wonder what my experience of getting on the Internet has to do with amateur voice repeaters? The answer is very little, but the story needs to be told, and it may well serve as a help to those of you who are making the move and connecting to the Internet.

Big Mistake

I bought another computer, as the 386 was too slow for many applications, and the new Pentium 100 was all ready to connect to the Internet. I had been looking forward to getting on the Internet for some while. So, with the introduction of an Internet e-mail address for *Amateur Radio* magazine columnists, now was the time to make the move. I signed up with a local Internet service provider for an attractive price. Once the account was set up, next came obtaining the software and setting it up.

The service provider offered to install and set up the software for a small fee. However, my thoughts were, why wait? Why not download the software from a local BBS and have my system up and running that night? Big mistake!!!

The Modem

The first difficulty I found was with the modem. On opening the handbook, out fell a page of text headed "For Australia and New Zealand". This was initialisation details for the modem. The string of letters and numbers sets up the modem for the Australian telephone standard. I loaded the software that came with the modem, and proceeded to type in this long line of initialisation numbers and letters into the box provided. The trouble was that not all the numbers and letters would fit. Once the box was full it would not accept any extra information. What to do with the remaining numbers?

Experimentation eventually showed that not all the numbers and letters are essential and I settled for ATX3. This all

took several hours, so the first night of being on the net was not to be. Why the software supplied with the modem would not allow all the initialisation setup to be typed in remains a mystery to me.

The Software

Next came loading *Netscape*, the web browsing software, and *Trumpet Windsock*, the software for dialling. At this point, much of what I had to do was a mystery. I knew enough to be able to have a go but, as it turned out, I was a long way from being anywhere near close. I could dial my service provider but that was it. Nothing happened beyond my phone call being acknowledged by the BBS computer.

Help

Help was required and I gathered all the hardware together and headed to an amateur friend, Greg VK6YEL. Greg's knowledge of computers and getting on the Internet is streets ahead of mine. Greg and I had communicated over the phone in an attempt to sort out the problems but to no avail. It is very difficult to sort out computer problems over the phone!

My attempts at setting up the software were a real mess, and it was decided to use the *Windows 95* software installed on my computer instead. *Windows 95* and the *Windows 95 Plus* pack come with all the software required for the Internet. In order to speed the installation up, we networked my computer and Greg's computer together. After a couple of hours all the software required for the Internet was up and running on my computer. I headed off home.

Networking

As the hour was late I did not turn on my computer until the next day. The computer booted up, but the mouse, even though it could move, would not click on any buttons. The computer would not

work in the *Windows 95* operating system. To cut short a long, frustrating, trying-to-find-out-what-was-wrong story, it was discovered that, while the two computers were networked, the installation of the Internet software and configuring the *Windows 95 Plus* pack had not gone as it should. While networked, what was not correct on my computer simply bypassed the problem and used Greg's computer to solve the problem. As soon as the two computers were disconnected from each other, my computer did not work. This had not been tried on the night of the installation. The more I investigated my computer the more problems I found.

Format C:

My computer was by now in a real state of falling apart. So much did not work or worked in strange ways. I decided to start again from scratch and did a reformat C. *Windows 95* and the *Plus* pack were now re-installed on a blank one-gigabyte hard drive.

Windows 95

With the operating software re-installed, Greg talked me through the configuration of the *Windows 95* operating system and the *Plus* pack for Internet operation. It did not work. Once again, to cut several hours down to a few lines, when I had done the reinstalling of *Windows 95* I had not installed the TCP/IP software in *Windows 95*. Even though the *Windows Explorer* net browser requires to be ticked to allow use of the TCP/IP mode, and I had done this, it did not say "you have not installed TCP/IP". This problem sorted out, next came the dial-up script. This script, which is a simple text file, is required to interface with the individual service provider. *Windows 95* provides the software called an Internet jump starter kit. I had not installed this as well, so, under Greg's instruction, I installed this software. However, even though *Windows 95* said it was installed, it was not. The installation is simple in *Windows 95*, simply select install new software from the CD ROM, click on the required tick box and away it goes. *Windows 95* would go through the initialisation process, but the software would not install.

Elton John

It was back to Greg's to sort the problem out yet again. Even with Greg's knowledge of computers we could not install the Internet jump starter kit. *Windows 95* would say it had installed the software even if you replaced the 95 CD with an Elton John music CD! We could not sort out the problem.

A Small Bug

The next day a phone call to Microsoft confirmed that, if you had the OEM version of *Windows 95*, the Internet jump starter kit would not install! I had the OEM version. The bug with the software could be fixed by deleting a file and allowing the *Plus* pack to install the correct file. Finally, armed with this knowledge, installation of the jump starter kit was achieved. This then brought up the Internet scripting icon in *Windows 95*.

However, even with all the software now installed correctly, conflict occurred with the *Windows 95 Microsoft Network*. This software allows connection to this alternate network. It appears to conflict with installation of Internet software. Deleting the Microsoft network software fixed the problem.

Networked Again

I had left my computer at Greg's place, and returned that night to see it all working. At last, stand alone, my computer was on the net!

Greg then asked, "Would you like the latest version of *Netscape 3.7*?" "Sure would," I replied. This version of *Netscape* is about six megabytes, so it was either zip the file over on several disks, or network the computers together. We networked the computers again, using *Interlink*. The networking did not work. It had worked before but refused to work this time.

Two hours later we discovered, instead of connecting the two computers together via the parallel ports, we had connected Greg's computer into my scanner port. My printer parallel port and my scanner port both use the same sex 25 D connectors. A simple mistake, but we had wasted two hours.

Now, with the computers correctly connected together, the network software would still not work! The

scanner port is a plug-in board which also supplies power to the scanner. You guessed it, Greg's parallel port had been fried! This problem aside, *Netscape 3* was copied over using floppy disks. *Netscape 3* was successfully installed and tested. After five weeks of frustration all appeared to be working.

Five Weeks

A lot was learned over these five weeks. Perhaps having your service provider install the software was the best lesson learned, but I did learn a lot about setting up a computer using *Windows 95* for the Internet.

Not knowing what software was required for the Internet does make the process very difficult. My understanding is you require four basic software components. They are, a net browser, TCP/IP, scripter, and dialler. Failure to have these basic elements installed, and set up correctly, results in the system not working.

Is it just me, or are instruction manuals for computers and computer software written in such a way as to be difficult and misleading? It is almost as if the instructions are written to overload you with detail but not tell you the basic, most important bits. I have read many articles on the Internet but have not been lucky enough to come across one that puts all these basic elements into perspective. If

you don't know what is required when setting up software on your computer you have no chance of being successful.

I hope some of these ramblings will be of use to some of you, not the least making you aware of the difficulty of setting up *Windows 95 Explorer* to run on the Internet. Several aspects of the problems I had still remain a mystery, but it is running, thanks to Greg VK6YEI. Without his considerable help I would have given up long ago and had the service provider install the software.

Fantastic!

As a footnote, my early experience of the Internet is fantastic. I had seen it briefly before, but now, with time to look around and learn, it really is something. For example, I have been listening to broadcast radio stations live from all around the world (that's right, live!) while roaming through the most incredible amount of information, all displayed with the most colourful presentation. As at the time of writing I have not yet connected to amateur radio repeaters that are on the net. Yes, you can connect to amateur repeaters and talk via the Internet to these systems. I have the software, downloaded from the Internet, but not the time to try it out as yet.

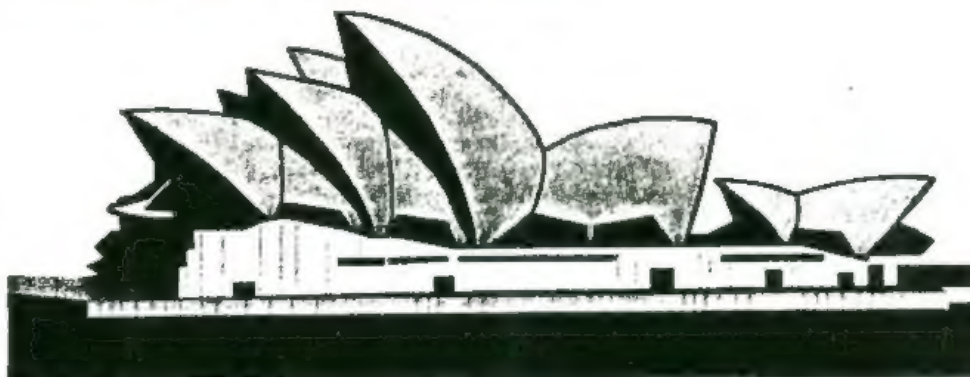
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VK6UU @ VK6RR

will@vale.faroc.com.au

NR

The above story comes from The Amateur Radio Magazine from Australia. It came to me courtesy of Harley KL7IZZ. Permission received to use it via e-mail from Will McGhie
e-mail address: will@vale.faroc.com.au



ANCHORAGE	CALL	FROM	TO
MICHAEL A. BAKER		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
JON W. CARROLL		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
BEN D. HARING (13) (KENAI)	WL7CHA	GENERAL	ADVANCED
VICTOR A. HETT (KENAI)		ADVANCED	AMATEUR EXTRA
TERRY E. HOWARD		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
ROBERT K. KELLY JR.	WL7EN	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL
ROBERT K. KELLY JR.	WL7EN	GENERAL	ADVANCED
STEVEN R. KALETA		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
PAUL T. KESTER	WL7XQQ	TECHNICIAN	TECH PLUS
STEVE E. KING		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
RAYMON MUNGIU (RIO RANCHO, NM)	KC5QYZ	TECHNICIAN	TECH PLUS
PATRICIA L. SHARP (FLORIDA)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
KEVIN L. SMITH (YAKUTAT)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
ROBERT D. ST JOHN (SOLDOTNA)	WL7US	TECHNICIAN	TECH PLUS
BETHEL			
BIG LAKE			
BYERS LAKE			
EAGLE RIVER			
HEATHER C. BRODIO (PALMER)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
CHRISTOPHER D. MOORADIAN		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
FAIRBANKS			
CHARLES E. ABBOTT (DELTA JUNCTION)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
SANDRA L. AKERS (NENANA)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
JON BOLLES	NL7XY	TECHNICIAN	TECH PLUS
JON BOLLES	NL7XY	TECH PLUS	GENERAL
JON BOLLES	NL7XY	GENERAL	ADVANCED
CHARLES B. BURNELL (HEALY)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
JAMES B. CHAPMAN	WL7BOF	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL
ANDREW H. DAVIS (SAVOONGA)	WL7COG	TECHNICIAN	TECH PLUS
RHODA J. DAVIS (SAVOONGA)	WL7COM	NOVICE	TECH PLUS
DANIEL J. FOREMAN IV (16)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
BRAD S. GORDON		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
PAUL D. JORDAN		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
BRIAN J. LEFFINGWELL	WL7OA	GENERAL	ADVANCED
BRIAN J. LEFFINGWELL	WL7OA	ADVANCED	AMATEUR EXTRA
THOMAS F. PARAGI	WL7YT	ADVANCED	AMATEUR EXTRA
ROBBIE L. PARKER		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
THOMAS H. PERSON (GLNALN)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
HAZEL L. SHELLEY (14)		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
GUSTAVUS			
HAINES			
JUNEAU			
WILLIAM N. HEINECK	W6LEZ	ADVANCED	AMATEUR EXTRA
DAVID E. TOBIAS	K1LKF	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL
KENAI			
ROBYNN K. GILLE		NO LICENSE	TECHNICIAN
NOME			
PALMER			
PETERSBURG			
SOLDOTNA			
DONALD M. FANNING	WL7NF	GENERAL	ADVANCED
TRAPPER CREEK			
VALDEZ			
WASILLA			
WILLOW			

NOTE (TECHNICIAN = NO CODE TECNICIAN) (TECHNICIAN PLUS = TECHNICIAN WITH H.F. PRIVILEGES)
submitted by Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ, VEC Director

Ham
of
the
Month
"Kris
O'Connor"

CHEECHAKO CHUCK

Sourdough Jack has a lot to say
In his quaint old-fashioned way
But the guy that doesn't say much; and has lots of pluck,
Is little old wet-nosed Cheechako Chuck.

He came up here from the sunny warm South,
He could just taste the moose steaks lush in his mouth.
Prices were high, and the streets weren't paved
But little old Cheechako Chuck never raved.

He changed all the grease in the wheels of his car,
He bought him a furnace for a good winter fire
His stateside clothes he figured would do.
They were good enough for a winter or two.

He piled up some dirt around the roots of his house.
Let the winter come now, he said to his spouse.
We're cozy and snug as a bear in a tree.
This winter will be fun, dear, you wait and see.

Then winter struck with a shivering shock
And every blamed thing froze hard as a rock.
Cars wouldn't run, propane wouldn't burn.
Says Cheechako Chuck, we have some things to learn.

His furnace it smokes, his wood was all green
And his blankets were cotton to crawl in between.
He shivered and shook, both he and his wife,
They never had such a cool time in their life.

He figured three dollars but it cost him six.
To bring in the bacon and biscuit mix.
And never a moose steak, no matter how poor
Came within miles of Cheechako's door.

His water pipes froze, and his sewer got plugged.
He had to buy water, all bottled and jugged.
The old-timers said that the winter was mild,
And Cheechako believed them with the faith of a child.

I have seen it hit seventy, one sourdough said,
And Cheechako snuggled deeper, and shook in his bed.
Or maybe he thought of the warm sunny states
While feeding his furnace some old wooden crates.

But give him a chance to get the hang of the thing.
He'll be a lot smarter and wiser, come spring.
After he has put in a winter or so
He might make a genuine old Sourdough.

(Author Unknown)

BALANCE SHEET
As of 11/12/98

Account	11/12/98 Balance
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
AARC Gaming	18,744.08
AARC Holding	207.48
Bond Account	6,283.88
Business Acct	2,864.77
Life Membership	23,439.18
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	48,809.37
TOTAL ASSETS	48,809.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	
EQUITY ACCOUNTS	
Open Bal Equity-Opening Bal Equity	50,844.34
TOTAL EQUITY ACCOUNTS	50,844.34
CURRENT EARNINGS	-4,934.97
TOTAL EQUITY	48,809.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	48,809.37

Attn AK hams!

My XYL is a new ham and active on 2 meter packet.
She would very much like to exchange packet messages
and QSL cards with an Alaska YL or OM. How about it?

Tnx 73/88 Ray NNTR

Her packet address:

KC8AYJ @ N8FIS @ NWOH.OH, USA, NOAM

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 101987

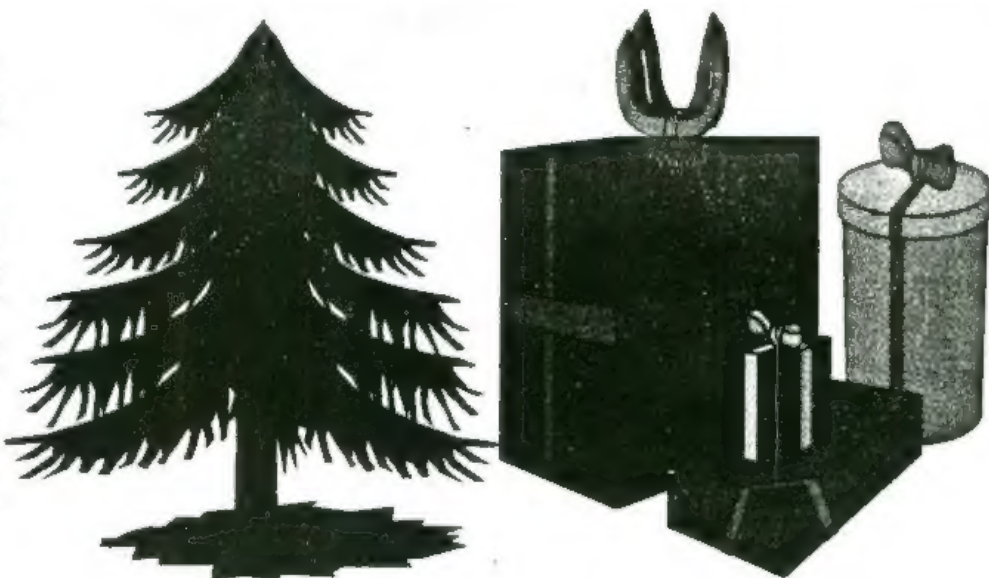
Anchorage, AK 99510-1987

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FOR SALE

YAESU FT 747 GX HF
Transceiver: FP 757 GX
Switching Power Supply; B&W
Antenna Tuner Model VS 300A;
RFC Amplifier for 2 meters, 2 in
30 out; 220 Larson Whip
Antenna with Resonator; Spider
HF Antenna, All Bands 80-10
Meters; MFJ QRP CW
Tranceivers: MFJ 30M, 9030;
MFJ 17M, 9070.
Contact Ed NL7VP @ 243-
4348H or 249-3151W



Have a Very 'MERRY CHRISTMAS'
and a
'HAPPY NEW YEAR'